THE SEVEN DAYS.

June, 1887, Brings Back Their Quarter Centennary.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

Splendid Fighting on the Bloody Retreat to the James River.

The Desperate Fights of Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mills, Savage Station, Glendale and Malvern Hill—The Route from Yorktown to the James Strewn with Soldiers' Graves.

After the battle of Fair Oaks, both armies rested a while. Hardly had Sumner's corps crossed to the south side of the Chickahominy, May 31, 1862, when the Chickahominy rose in mighty flood and swept all before it, Sumner's Grapevine bridge included. If the flood had come in the forenoon of that day at Fair Oaks instead of toward evening, the corps of McClellan's army south of the stream would have been cut to pieces.

Only the railway bridge was left across the Chickahominy, and over this were brought supplies for the corps—Keyes', Heitzelman's and Sumner's—on the south side of the stream. The base of supplies was still at White House, on the Pamunkey. "The ground turned into a vast swamp," says Gen. Webb, "and the guns in battery sank into the earth by their own weight."

McClellan began again in this swamp his favorite work of throwing up intrenchments.

GEN. R. E. LEE.

Franklin's corps was moved across to the right bank. Fitz John Porter's corps was the only one remaining upon the left bank. In his testimony before the court of inquiry on the Peninsula campaign, Gen. Sumner afterward said: "I was never in favor of those field works. I think they have a tendency to make the men timid, and do more harm than good, and I think the older officers of the army think so."

June 3, Gen. Robert Edmund Lee was appointed to the command of the Confederate army in Virginia. Thenceforward till the end that illustrious name stood at the head of its roll of generals. Its defeats were his, its successes his successes. At the time the war broke out, Robert E. Lee was an officer of thirty-six years standing in the United States army. He was 55 years old. His father was "Light Horse Harry Lee" of the revolution, the officer who originated the fine phrase about Washington, "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Robert E. Lee was opposed to secession, but he felt bound to the state of Virginia. Therefore, June 18, 1861, the day after the Virginia ordinance of secession was passed, he went to Gen. Scott and resigned his place in the army. He said of his resignation: "It would have been presented at once but for the struggle it has cost me to separate myself from a service to which I have devoted all the best years of my life and all the ability I possessed."

Some of McClellan's ablest officers were of opinion that he could have pushed on immediately after the battle of Fair Oaks and have taken Richmond without much difficulty. The way was open there. But he did not think so. He simply crawled ahead a little further, and intrenched.

Meantime Gen. Lee began fortifying around Richmond with all the resources at his command. In a few days, almost as if by magic, there appeared on every commanding spot about the Confederate capital frowning defenses and cannon and guards. After that it was too late to take Richmond without great loss.

On June 1, 1862, McClellan had with him 92,500 fighting men—five corps. Lee had 80,762. Lee's men were in divisions under Gens. Longstreet, A. P. Hill, D. H. Hill, Magruder, Huger, Whiting and Jackson.

Gen. George A. McCall's division of Pennsylvanians, that had been detached from McDowell's corps, remained with Porter's corps on the north bank of the Chickahominy. On the south bank, across the river, the Federal soldiers were massed heavily about Seven Pines in this general direction:

Franklin,
Sumner,
Heintzelman,
White Oak Swamp.

As they faced toward Richmond Franklin occupied the Federal right, Heintzelman the left. Keyes' corps was kept as a reserve.

Gen. Franklin followed the fortunes of the army of the Potomac till the close of the war. He was a West Point graduate and became major general of volunteers. After the war he accepted the place of vice-president of the Colt Manufacturing company, at Hartford, Conn.

GEN. W. B. FRANKLIN.

As always, McClellan desired reenforcements. For the third time it was promised that McDowell should join him. A second time "Stonewall" Jackson prevented this by making a feint in northern Virginia. McClellan believed that McDowell did not wish to join him as a subordinate, and was irritated thereat. He wrote Secretary Stanton: "It ought to be distinctly understood that McDowell and his troops are completely under my control."

There never was a good understanding between the commanding general and his superiors at Washington. Time passed on, with storm and rain, the commanding general execrating the weather, the authorities at Washington and Gen. McDowell, the soldiers in the meantime standing waist deep in mud and water building bridges and earthworks.

June 13, the famous Confederate cavalry commander, J. E. B. Stuart, made a brilliant raid, circling quite around the army of the Potomac. He dashed even into their base of supplies at White House, on the Pamunkey, and carried off a large number of horses and prisoners. It gave the Federal authorities an uncomfortable shaking up in their minds.

June 25, McClellan made a move forward at Seven Pines. There was a small fight at Oak Grove, in which the Union forces were victorious, and pickets from Heintzelman's and Sumner's corps were posted within four miles of Richmond.

The generalship of Gens. Lee and Stonewall Jackson at this time commands admiration. After finishing his movements in the Shenandoah Valley, Jackson wrote to Johnston this significant letter, dated June 6: "Should my command be required at Richmond, I can be at Mechanic's Run depot, on the Central railroad, the second day's march."

Lee, in command when the letter was received, wrote him back that if he could leave the valley, and "could deceive the enemy," so as to make him believe he was still in the Shenandoah region, to come on.

The two generals hit on the plan of apparently sending re-enforcements from Richmond to the Shenandoah, to Jackson, giving the impression that Jackson still meditated mischief in the valley. In reality, he was to meet the re-enforcements and hurry back with them to Richmond. Lawton's and Whiting's commands were marched out of Richmond with a flourish, care being taken that the Federals should be aware of it. At Harrisburg Jackson met them June 17, and all started back to Richmond. The plan was a complete success, and it was this trick which for the third time prevented McDowell from joining the army of the Potomac.

It is to be noted that Secretary Stanton only, of all the Federal managers, was not deceived by the ruse, but declared that Jackson's real movement was toward Richmond.

Everybody was undeceived when, June 26, McClellan hastily telegraphed that his pickets were being driven in north of the Chickahominy.

Until then, day after day, it had been telegraphed to Washington, "All quiet in the army of the Potomac." So bent on having additions to his army had McClellan been that June 10 he had telegraphed Secretary Stanton, advising that a considerable force be detached from Halleck's western department and sent to him. Long before this, early in March, McClellan had been relieved from duty as commander of all the armies of the United States, and made commander only of the army of the Potomac. This was done, it was claimed by President Lincoln, in order that the general might give all his time to the war in Virginia. McClellan regarded it as a humiliation, and says: "The order proved to be one of the steps taken to tie my hands in order to secure the failure of the approaching campaign." He believed that it emanated from Secretary Stanton, and was issued out of spite.

There was at that time no commander in chief of all the armies. There were three independent departments, with McClellan in the east or Potomac department, Fremont in the central one, called the mountain department, and Halleck over that west of the Mississippi, called the department of the Mississippi.

From the time he made the brilliant cavalry dash around the army of the Potomac till the year before Richmond fell, the name of J. E. B. Stuart occurs constantly in encounters with the army of Virginia. Wherever there was opportunity for swiftness and daring there he was found. May 12, 1864, this famous cavalry man was mortally wounded near Richmond, in an engagement with Sheridan's troopers, and died the same day.

J. E. B. STUART.

SEVEN DAYS' FIGHTING.

After Stuart's raid, June 11, McClellan began to prepare for changing his base of supplies from the Pamunkey across the Peninsula on the James river. He did this in view of possible defeat and disaster.

SEVEN DAYS' BATTLE GROUND.

McClellan and Lee had each fixed on June 26 as a day for attacking the other. McClellan meant to storm Richmond and take it by assault. Lee intended to attack McClellan and raise the siege of Richmond. But McClellan was behind Lee in moving, and the Confederates got in their attack first. Then McClellan dismissed his plan of taking Richmond for the time, and made preparations for a secure retreat to the James, which was now in possession of the Federals from its mouth nearly to the Confederate capital.

The first battle of the seven days' fighting was that of Mechanicsville, June 26. A slight skirmish had taken place June 25.

Porter's corps was stationed around and to the east of Mechanicsville. Near here was Beaver Dam creek, with Ellison's Mill upon it. McCall's Pennsylvanians were stationed on the rising ground near Ellison's Mill, commanding the creek. To the right, left and rear of McCall were Gens. Reynolds, Martindale, Griffin, Meade and Seymour, with their commands. The troops were ranged half moon shape on Beaver Dam creek. Mechanicsville bridge crossed the Chickahominy.

Stonewall Jackson and his men were to be in the rear of Mechanicsville on the morning of the 26th. Branch's Confederate brigade was to cross the Chickahominy up near Richmond, move rapidly down the river road and clear Meadow bridge of its Union guard, and then strike eastward, join Stonewall Jackson, and make an attack on the Federal rear east of Mechanicsville. Meadow bridge crossed the Chickahominy north of the one at Mechanicsville.

As soon as Meadow bridge was cleared of Federals, A. P. Hill was to cross it rapidly, push still further south and then take the road to Mechanicsville. That movement would leave the Mechanicsville bridge clear. Longstreet and D. H. Hill were to cross it, march hastily on and join the attacking column. Thus McClellan's army on the north bank of the Chickahominy would be involved front and rear, and could be cut to pieces.

But for the first time in his life Stonewall Jackson was late. The two Hills and Longstreet carried out their part of the programme, attacking the Federal front as it faced south on the Chickahominy. Their work was with the Federal left, Jackson's with the right.

A. P. Hill's advance had driven the Union pickets back to the main line at Ellison's Mill. There was time enough for the Federals to form in battle line. Hill and Longstreet advanced in the teeth of a tremendous fire of musketry and artillery from the heights around Ellison's Mill. The firing came from Gen. Seymour, who held the left. The Confederates had hoped to turn the Union flank and cut the left to pieces. In the midst of deadly fire they were hurled back, and the movement failed, and so the battle of Mechanicsville ended. It had lasted from 3 o'clock in the afternoon till 9. McCall's men were in the bloodiest of the contest. The Confederates lost between 3,000 and 4,000, the Federals about 400.

Next morning McClellan resolved to retreat south and take up a position on the James. He found for certain that Jackson was in his vicinity with a large force, and had only been detained by some Federal skirmishers at Totopotomy creek, north of Mechanicsville.

Here some military critics declare McClellan made another mistake. The Confederates had left Richmond protected only by 25,000 men—Huger's and Magruder's divisions—on the 27th. After the Federal victory at Mechanicsville if McClellan had unexpectedly and vigorously attacked Richmond, he could have cut Lee's army in two. Magruder, indeed, expected it. He wrote in his report: "I passed the night without sleep. Had McClellan massed his whole force in column, and advanced it against any point of our line of battle, as was done at Austerlitz under similar circumstances by the greatest captain of any age, * * * the occupation of our works about Richmond, and consequently the city, might have been his reward."

But McClellan did not do it. He began to retreat to the James.

The second battle of the seven days' fighting was that at Gaines' Mill, or Cold Harbor, June 27.

McClellan made ready for his right wing to cross the Chickahominy. During the night of the 26th the heavy guns and wagons were sent across to the south bank. Porter's corps, the Fifth, was drawn up at Gaines' Mills, a position several miles south of Mechanicsville. This place was between Cold Harbor and the Chickahominy.

The Confederates had not retreated. Another attack was to be made on Fitz John Porter's corps, north of the Chickahominy, next day.

Porter's men were ranged in a semicircle at Gaines' Mills, facing the bridges by which they were to cross to the south side of the Chickahominy. The guns which had already crossed had been planted on the other side to face the bridges.

FITZ JOHN PORTER (1887).

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, June 27, A. P. Hill once more attacked the Fifth Federal corps on the north side of the Chickahominy. There were 33,000 Union troops, while the Confederates, with the re-enforcements constantly coming up, numbered not less than 50,000.

The Federal troops engaged were Sykes' and Morell's divisions of three brigades each. The fight of the 27th is also sometimes called the battle of Cold Harbor.

A. P. Hill made an attack and then withdrew somewhat. He kept up a half fight for two hours, waiting for Longstreet and Jackson. About 4 o'clock Stonewall Jackson arrived, and at once engaged in battle with all his force. The Confederate forces in the fight at Gaines' Mills were the divisions of the two Hills, Longstreet, Branch, Ewell and Whiting. The battle roared and thundered from 2 o'clock till after sunset. Here was some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. Men's lives were no more than a flash of powder.

Desperate efforts were made to break Porter's line. Regiment after regiment of Confederates were rolled against it and recoiled under the deadly fire that met them. Yet others came, as though they sprang from the ground. Ewell, from D. H. Hill's left, led one advance. As he came upon the ground his men met two regiments beaten backward and flying.

"We're whipped, you can't do anything; they shouted to Ewell's men:"

"Get out of the way, we'll show you," answered the new comers.

But even they could not break the line. They were hard pressed, when suddenly 4,000 Georgians, under Lawton, rolled up to their aid. "Hurrah for Georgia!" shouted Ewell's men.

Meantime, on the south side of the Chickahominy, in the Federal camps, a scene was passing which nobody afterward felt proud of. Richmond was largely emptied of troops. Across the Chickahominy, within call, were the corps of Franklin, Sumner, Keyes, Heintzelman. Porter, hard pressed, sent to his commander for re-enforements. McClellan, thinking he had a great force in front of him, only sent one division, Slocum's, of Franklin's corps.

Magruder was practicing his Yorktown trick of making a great noise and show with a few men. Indeed, the Confederate tactics throughout the day, even in the fight at Gaines' Mill, were somewhat similar, and it is only fair to say they succeeded. Now, Sumner reported that his right was going to be attacked instantly, then Smith was sure the Confederates were massing in front. Anon Franklin discovered heavy columns on his right. By this masterly Confederate tactics the corps commanders were kept expecting an attack all day, and prevented from sending aid to Porter.

T. F. MEAGHER.

Again, at sunset, Porter, still desperately fighting, sent for help. Could it be spared? McClellan asked. Then Sumner sent French's and Thomas Francis Meagher's brigades, but confessed that he thought he was running a risk to do it.

The two brigades dashed across the bridges and up the bluff toward Gaines' Mill with a shout and a cheer, Meagher, the lively Irish general, at their head in his shirt sleeves, the soldiers tell.

But then it was too late.

Porter's terribly cut up line had broken in the center at last. The soldiers who had fought so bravely and so long were rushing pellmell toward the Chickahominy, in full rout. The comrades who had come to save them could only cover their retreat and stop the Confederate pursuit.

It was Hood's and McLaw's Texan brigades, of Whiting's division, that at last broke Fitz John Porter's line. The regular and zouave regiments did not break.

In the fight of Gaines' Mill two regiments, one of New Jersey, the other of Pennsylvania, were surrounded and taken prisoners. With them was Brig. Gen. Reynolds.

Under the protection of Meagher's and French's brigades Porter's whole corps, what was left of it, retreated to the south bank of the Chickahominy. Some of his artillery was left behind.

Thus one corps and a division of McClellan's army was made to fight more than two-thirds of the whole Confederate army around Richmond. In this bloody battle Porter's corps lost 6,000 men, killed, wounded and prisoners; the Confederates, 9,500.

Morning found Fitz John Porter's corps across the river, and the bridges destroyed behind it. Stoneman's and Emory's cavalry, cut off from the rest of the corps, escaped by the way of White House and Yorktown, and went down the York river and up the James and rejoined the army of the Potomac.

During the Peninsula campaign the French princes, the Duc de Chartres and the Comte de Paris, received a thorough experience of American warfare. They served as aides on McClellan's staff, with the rank of captain, from September, 1861, to the close of the seven days' fighting. They were the grandsons of King Louis Philippe, and were the same two princes that have been recently exiled by the French government. With their uncle, the Prince de Joinville, they followed the fortunes of the army of the Potomac. They were brave, dashing young fellows then, full of fun and merriment. They kept up their own establishment, with their uncle, who was very deaf. Some of McClellan's happiest hours were passed in their tent, in those weary days.

At midnight after the disaster at Gaines' Mill McClellan sat in his tent and wrote to Secretary Stanton a dispatch, the like of which was never sent by a soldier to his superiors before: "If I save this army now, I tell you plainly that I owe no thanks to you or to any other persons in Washington. You have done your best to sacrifice this army." Then he announced to his officers his intention to begin his march south to the James. At daybreak he was at Savage station, on the York and Richmond railroad, breaking camp and preparing for the journey to the James. By noon that day, June 28, Keyes' division had crossed White Oak swamp and taken position on the other side of it to guard the passage of ammunition and provision trains. Sumner's, Heintzelman's and part of Franklin's corps were to remain on the Richmond side of White Oak swamp, to cover the movement of retreat. It was well planned.

There was a slight action on the morning of the 28th. A heavy Confederate artillery fire forced Smith's division to abandon its position at Golding's farm and move nearer Savage station. Lee believed that McClellan would throw his whole force back north of the Chickahominy, after leaving Gaines' Mill, in order to save White House and his line of supplies. He therefore prepared to strike McClellan at White House, on the Pamunkey. He sent Ewell and Stuart to that point to seize the railway and war supplies. They were a day too late. The stores had been mostly removed, and such as could not be carried away were destroyed. The White House itself had been burnt. The night of the 28th of June, it suddenly dawned on Lee that McClellan had changed his base, and was in retreat to the James, with the intention of drawing supplies by that way. He determined to send his army in pursuit at once.

GEN. A. P. HILL.

Then came the next battles in this ghastly serial—the fights of Allen's Farm and Savage Station and the affair at Willis' church, all June 29.

With all haste McClellan had retreated toward the James. He gave orders that all supplies which could not be quickly conveyed should be destroyed. Says Gen. Webb, in the "Peninsula Campaign:" "Lines of fire marked the camps and depots of the Union troops. Millions of rations, hundreds of tons of fixed ammunition and shells for the siege guns were thus lost."

June 29 McClellan's headquarters were removed from Savage station to the James river side of White Oak swamp. The line of retreat can be seen on the map of the seven days' battle ground. The same day Sumner abandoned Fair Oaks and also dropped southward, to Orchard station. By following the line of march on the map the reader will see that their moves were in a direction away from Richmond.

"Ah, there was a time for you," says one of the old boys of the army of the Potomac, who limps about with a bullet wound in his leg, got in the seven days' battle. "We used to fight all day and march all night."

So desperately bent on reaching the James was McClellan that he left his sick and wounded who could not be moved behind him in a hospital at Savage station, where they would inevitably be taken by the Confederates.

Sumner and Heintzelman's corps were at Allen's farm, near Orchard station, on the morning of June 29. That morning Lee's army started in pursuit of the retreating Federals. Huger and Magruder started out, Magruder by the Williamsburg road, which led eastward to Savage station, Huger by the Charles City road, which led southeastward to Glendale. These and Longstreet and A. P. Hill were to attack on the right, while Jackson was to cross the Chickahominy in the rear of the Federals and pursue from the north.

McClellan, in arranging his retreat, had ordered Keyes to go forward first and take position on Malvern Hill, near the James. Porter and Franklin were to follow, and so, watching the rear and the right, they were to push on to the James. This was the morning of the 29th. McClellan himself had already ridden on toward the James, to select a suitable position. The heaviest supplies were already well on the way. Among them was a drove of 2,500 beef cattle, which were got off in safety.

[Gen. James Longstreet was a South Carolinian, born in 1820; graduated at West Point, and served in the Mexican war. After the civil war he engaged in business pursuits and held important government offices under Republican administrations. He is now living at Gainesville, Ga.]

LONGSTREET.

On the morning of the 29th Magruder's division made a lively attack on Sumner and Heintzelman at Allen's farm, but was three times repulsed. Magruder went in person to Lee to get re-enforcements in vain. Lee had ordered Huger and Jackson off somewhere else.

Magruder's attack ceased. Sumner's corps then moved nearer Savage station.

McClellan's destruction of the Chickahominy bridges had retarded the pursuit by Jackson, who was on the north side of the river. He did not get over till the morning of the 30th.

Meantime, on the afternoon of the 29th, Magruder again attacked the Federal forces around Savage Station. He says he had 13,000 men. Thus, with Huger's division pursuing McClellan's army, Richmond was quite denuded of troops.

The Federal forces grouped around Savage station in the battle of that name were Franklin's corps, with Smith and Slocum as division commanders, Sumner's corps, and McCall's division of Franklin's corps. Heintzelman had been ordered by Sumner to take position on the left, but Heintzelman simply withdrew his corps, and took no part in the battle of Savage Station. He said there was not room for so many troops, so he destroyed the stores at Savage station and started for the James. It was well known that there was no love lost between Heintzelman and Sumner.

Lee had expected Jackson to take part in the action at Savage station, but Jackson had not yet been able to rebuild the Grapevine bridge, and so Magruder fought alone. At 5:30 Magruder brought his forces into action. With them was the peculiar rifled cannon which the Confederates called the "Land Merrimac." It was mounted upon a car, and the front of it was covered with a sloping iron roof, from which shots rattled harmlessly off. The sides were protected with armor plate, over which was another covering of heavy wood.

Just before sunset Magruder's Confederates made a rush for the Union forces at Savage station. The "Land Merrimac" was used with great effect. They were met with a heavy fire from the Union line. Then for half an hour there was nothing but roar and smoke and deadly fire. At the end of that time the Confederate lines were broken. They gave way, fell back and left the road to White Oak swamp open for the Federal retreat to the James. The retreat was continued as soon as the wounded could be gathered up, and Sumner's and Franklin's corps went on their way, through White Oak swamp, leaving behind them Savage Station, with its huge hospital of sick and wounded and its medical stores. This was McClellan's order. It fell into the hands of Stonewall Jackson next morning, with its 2,500 men.

In the battle of Savage station the Confederates lost 4,000 men, the Federals 3,000. The Federal Gen. Burns and his men fought desperately. The battle occurred on Sunday.

GEN. M'CALL.

Next morning, June 30, Stonewall Jackson crossed the Chickahominy and followed in pursuit. Magruder moved toward Malvern Hill.

The third fight that took place on that fated 20th of June was at Willis' church, near Glendale. It was a sharp skirmish with Confederate cavalry on the Quaker road, by which McClellan was retreating. With the great number of Confederates drawing nearer and nearer to his right, and Jackson's men after him in the rear, this retreat of McClellan to the James was no child's play.

June 30 McClellan had reached his new headquarters at Malvern hill, near the James. But the army of the Potomac had by no means arrived there. It had yet more fighting before it ere it rested on the James. In this bloody retreat fighting enough was done and lives enough were sacrificed to have taken Richmond many times over if the Federal generals had only known how to do it.

Three roads leading out from Richmond intercept the Quaker road by which McClellan retreated. When Keyes began his retreat, he fortunately discovered an old road running parallel with the Quaker road. He struck that, and by hurrying his men along it, reached Malvern Hill speedily. A double line of troops was thus also formed against the Confederates. The two routes appear on the map.

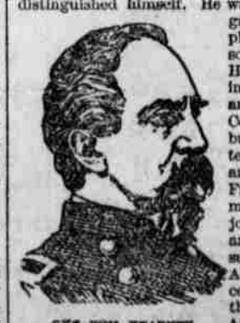
There was a constant danger of attack by the Confederates along the cross roads, already mentioned, leading from Richmond, namely, the Charles City, Central and New market roads. As soon as Lee discovered the line of McClellan's retreat he ordered Hill and Longstreet to recross to the south side of the Chickahominy and follow south and intercept the Federals. The Central road runs into Long Bridge road, and that crosses the Quaker road. At the intersection of the Long Bridge and Quaker roads Hill and Longstreet found part of the Federal forces. A mile further on, at the junction of the Newmarket and Quaker roads, McCall's division was posted.

Then took place the sixth contest of the seven days' fighting—the battle of Glendale, sometimes called also the battle of Nelson's Farm—Monday, June 30. It is called, too, the battle of Frazier's Farm.

In all the stubborn fighting of the Peninsula the absence of the commanding general from so many of the severest fights is matter of note. While his corps commanders, and in some cases division and brigade generals, were bearing the brunt of battle without a leader as best they might, McClellan was apt to be off somewhere else, superintending the throwing up of intrenchments or the selection of headquarters or doing engineer's work. It was unfortunate for his fame as a military commander.

On the perilous retreat to the James he went ahead, to Malvern Hill, to James river and the gunboats. During the bloody fight at Glendale the general in chief knew nothing about it till late at night. He had been part of the day at his headquarters at Malvern Hill and part of the time upon a gunboat.

In the battle at Glendale Gen. Philip Kearney distinguished himself. He was one of the most gallant and accomplished of American soldiers of his time. He was born in 1815, in New York city, and was educated at Columbia college, but afterward entered the regular army. He went to France to pursue his military studies, joined the French army and served with such distinction in Algiers that he received the Cross of the Legion of Honor. Afterward he served in the Mexican war, and lost an arm while gallantly leading a charge. July 2, 1862, at the close of McClellan's Peninsula campaign, he was promoted to a major generalship for gallantry. He did not long live to enjoy his new honor, however. He was killed at Chantilly, Va., Sept. 1, two months later.



GEN. PHIL KEARNEY.

There was fighting all along the line that bloody Monday, June 30. Back at White Oak Swamp bridge, on its south side, Gens. Smith, Richardson and Nagle were posted with their commands and Ayres' and Hazard's batteries. They had crossed White Oak Swamp bridge and destroyed it behind them. Jackson came up in hot pursuit, and there was desperate fighting. Hazard was mortally wounded and his battery cut to pieces, but still Jackson was held back a whole day and evening by the Federals.

Still, is the story told
How well Horatius kept the bridge
In the brave days of old.

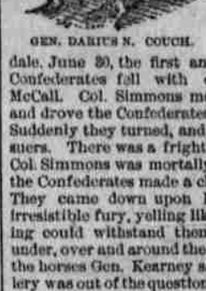
During the night the Federal forces dropped southward, still heading toward Malvern Hill.

The same day, in the afternoon, the hot fight at Glendale came off. At Willis' church, near the village, McCall's division was posted. It had suffered frightfully at Mechanicsville and Gaines' Mill, having been reduced from 10,000 to 6,000; but it was here again, fighting in the thickest of the battle at Glendale. Kearney's division was at the right of McCall, as they faced southward. Sumner's corps was to the left of McCall, with Hooker's division on Sumner's left. Hooker and Kearney belonged to Heintzelman's corps.

Longstreet had hoped to gain the intersection of the Long Bridge road before the Federals could pass it. But he was too late. Keyes' and Porter's corps had already passed. Heintzelman's and Sumner's men were at Glendale, with only Franklin in the rear at White Oak bridge.

Longstreet, finding so many Federals at Glendale, was obliged to wait till Magruder came up. Gen. Lee and Jefferson Davis were with Longstreet, waiting to see the battle.

Gen. Couch took prominent part in the first battle of Malvern Hill, which closed the so-called seven days' fighting, July 1. He was one of the old school military men, having been born in 1822. He was a graduate of West Point, and served in the regular army from 1846 till 1865, attaining the rank of major general of volunteers. He resigned from the army at the close of the war.



GEN. DARIUS N. COUCH.

At Glendale, June 30, the first and heaviest blow of the Confederates fell with crushing force upon McCall. Col. Simmons met the attack bravely, and drove the Confederates back into the woods. Suddenly they turned, and pursued became pursuers. There was a frightful slaughter, in which Col. Simmons was mortally wounded. Presently the Confederates made a charge in wedge shape. They came down upon Randol's battery with irresistible fury, yelling like wild Indians. Nothing could withstand them, with men swarming under, over and around the guns, and cutting loose the horses Gen. Kearney said afterward that artillery was out of the question. Finally McCall's line broke, and he was driven to the rear, losing some of the guns. Kearney came to the rescue after McCall's defeat, and formed two lines in the woods. The Confederates charged on the guns three times during the afternoon, but were repulsed each time. Gen. McCall, in trying to rally his men, about dusk, was taken prisoner. At Richmond he saw one of his brigade generals, Reynolds, captured at Gaines' Mill.

Fresh troops coming from White Oak Swamp toward evening finished the fight and drove the Confederates back, and with the darkness the battle of Glendale ended. At another point in the Federal line, Hunt's artillery and Gen. Sykes' troops repulsed a Confederate attack, at Malvern Hill, making the third for that bloody June 30. Gen. Meade was dangerously wounded that day.

The Federal line of retreat had not been cut in two, though it had been fearfully strained, and that night and the next day the last of the weary Union troops straggled into the new camp at Malvern Hill.

But it was not to rest. Tuesday, June 1, occurred:

THE BATTLE OF MALVERN HILL.

This battle properly closes the terrific seven days' fighting.

As the troops came in they were posted in strong positions about Malvern Hill by Gen. Barnard, chief engineer. They changed front and were faced toward Richmond.

It was finally settled, however, that the permanent camp was not to be at Malvern Hill, but at Harrison's landing, on the river, where supplies could be better obtained and where the army could be under the protection of the gunboats. Gen. McClellan went on board the Galena to consult with Commodore Rodgers about the supplies.

MALVERN HILL BATTLEGROUND.

According to his usual luck, the general was absent when the battle of Malvern Hill began. With the changed front, Porter's corps was on the left. Skirted in an oval around Malvern Hill were the other Federal troops: Couch's division on the right of Porter, next Kearney and Hooker, next Sedgwick and Richardson, next Smith and Slocum, then the remainder of Keyes' corps. Gen. McClellan himself had ordered this disposition of troops.

The Confederates were in close pursuit. At 1 o'clock their advance was seen. They were ranged in this order: Magruder and Huger on the Confederate right, while circling after them to the left were Jackson, Ewell, Whiting and D. H. Hill. Longstreet and A. P. Hill were in the rear, too weary to fight.

The Confederates had been ordered by Gen. Lee to "charge with a yell" if the Federal line was broken. Next, they were to advance with fixed bayonets and "drive the invaders into the James." But the shouting did not come off. Gen. Armistead, who was to carry out this part of the programme, advanced to a point where he could not come on or go back, and his troops lay down upon the ground to escape the artillery fire.

The first attack was made upon Porter and Couch. Morell's division of Porter's corps and Couch's division of Keyes' bore the brunt of the battle.

The Confederate plan was to take Malvern Hill by assault. But tier after tier of Union artillery rose above the heads of the Confederates and poured a deadly fire into them. The Federal gunboats in the river aided the artillery in the hills, and the Confederates were driven back with slaughter and confusion. Three desperate assaults were made upon the hills in vain. With the darkness the broken Confederates drew off and gave up the fight. The day was decided by the tiers of Federal artillery among the hills.

Once more, July 2, McClellan's generals believed that he could have advanced and taken Richmond. But he did not. On the contrary he moved all his army to Harrison's landing, three miles down, and wrote to Washington for re-enforcements. Of the 180,000 men which had positively been furnished him he reported that he had only 50,000 left.

Of Lee's 80,762 men, he lost in killed and wounded during the seven days' fighting, including Malvern Hill, 18,400. The fighting throughout was awful and bloody, without decisive result on either side. Six weeks of inaction followed. Of the leading generals who took part in this terrible campaign few are left. The Army and Navy Journal keeps record of them. Sumner died during the war. Heintzelman died recently in Washington, a retired army officer. Gen. McCall still lives engaged in civil pursuits, in Pennsylvania. Gen. Keyes is also living, engaged in civil pursuits, too. Gen. Couch, at the age of 65, resides in Hartford, Conn.